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LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and in view of the continuing illegal Iranian occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, and of the ongoing attempts by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran forcibly to impose on the islands a fait accompli by implementing numerous unlawful and illegal measures with a view to annexing them and bringing them under Iranian sovereignty by coercive means, I hereby inform you that my Government requests the Security Council to retain in the list of matters of which it is seized the item entitled "Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409)", which relates to the question of the Iranian occupation of the islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, until such time as the Islamic Republic of Iran ends its occupation and de facto control of these islands.

My Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the United Arab Emirates to security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region and its readiness to abide by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Permanent Representative

99-00214 (E) 060199 060199